

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7401

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CONS, WG, EG, AU

SUBJECT: FRG-AUSTRIAN PROBLEMS OVER PROJECTED GDR-
AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT.

REF: A) VIENNA 515; B) BONN 960

1. FRG-AUSTRIAN CONTROVERSY CONTINUES TO BUBBLE WITH VERY HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE IN WEST GERMANY OF KREISKY'S JAN 21 PRESS CONFERENCE. MAJOR PAPERS HERE USED HEADLINES LIKE "VIENNA WARNS BONN AGAINST INTERVENTION," AND "KREISKY WILL NOT TOLERATE CRITICISM FROM BONN ON VIENNA'S FOREIGN POLICY" TO DESCRIBE AUSTRIAN POSITION. BONN, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS TAKING THE LINE THAT FRG LEGAL POSITION MUST BE PROTECTED ON QUESTION OF "GERMAN" CITIZENSHIP, THAT GDR-AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT WITH OFFENSIVE CLAUSE WOULD BE STRONG PRECEDENT FOR OTHER GDR CONSULAR CONVENTIONS WITH WESTERN STATES AND FOR GENERAL DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF GDR POSITION ON A SEPARATE GDR CITIZENSHIP, AND THAT RECOGNITION BY AUSTRIA OF SEPARATE GDR CITIZENSHIP COULD CREATE REAL PRACTICAL PROBLEMS
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VIS A VIS GDR RESIDENTS FLEEING TO AUSTRIA AND REQUEST-

ING THERE FRG CONSULAR PROTECTION AND APPLYING FOR FRG
PASSPORTS.

2. COMMENT: WE WOULD ONLY EMPHASIZE OUR COMMENT IN
REFTEL B: GENSCHER MUST SURELY FEEL EXPOSED ON THIS
ISSUE AND HE CAN ILL AFFORD A PUBLIC "DEFEAT" ON IT. OUR
ATTEMPTS TO SOUND OUT BRITISH HERE AS TO
WHERE THEY ACTUALLY STAND IN THEIR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS
WITH GDR WERE MET WITH STONE-WALLING,
BUT IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT, WITH THE RUCKUS
RAISED BY THE AUSTRIAN SITUATION PLUS GENSCHER'S LETTER
TO CALLAGHAN, LONDON MUST BE CONCERNED ON
THIS MATTER. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR OWN UPCOMING
CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR ARE
APPARENT.
HILLENBRAND

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